

Capsule Summary

SM-810

Tenant House #1 at Clark's Rest

Leonardtown vicinity

Private

circa 1920

In the aftermath of the Civil War, many African Americans in St. Mary's County fled to northern regions to escape the oppressive bonds of slavery, distance themselves from their former masters, and seek better paying jobs. Other remained behind.

Tenant House #1 at Clark's Rest as well as SM-811 typify the types of dwellings that African Americans occupied in the early twentieth century. Interestingly the house's location also typifies the proxemics of post-Civil War domestic hierarchies. Sitting at the bottom of the hill below the main dwelling, this and two other house's occupied the eastern margins of the impressive plantation called Clark's Rest. Oral history, documentary research, and photography should be completed for this as well as SM-811 in order to determine the exact relationship of these houses, the families that occupied them, and how they functioned in the larger scheme of the day-to-day operations of the main farm.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. SM-810

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other Tenant House #1 at Clark's Rest

2. Location

street and number N side of Md. Rt. 5 approx. ¾ of a mile W of Leonardtown _____ not for publication

city, town	Leonardtown	<u>x</u> vicinity
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county St. Mary's

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	George E. Clark, Trustee
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street and number	PO Box 330	telephone	N/a
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city, town	Leonardtown	state	Md	zip code	20650
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4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse tax map and parcel TM-127, P-514

city, town	Leonardtown	liber	EWA 1153	folio 327
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5. Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

[illegible]

7. Description

Inventory No. SM-810

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Tenant House #1 at Clark's Rest is situated on the north side of Maryland Route 5 approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile west of the intersection of Maryland Route 5 and Hollywood Leonardtown Road in Leonardtown, Maryland. Oriented on a south/north axis, the modest tenant house is positioned closely to the main road and is currently vacant. Lying on the western margins of the impressive 178 acre farm called Clark's Rest, the area immediately around the house is characterized by overgrown shrubbery. The property is bounded by a wooded tract to the west, agricultural parcels to the north, a residential lot to the east, and by the road to the south.

Tenant house #1 near Clark's Rest, built circa 1920, is a modest one-and-a-half story, three bay cottage with a gable roof. A single brick chimney flue protrudes from the center of the roof. The exterior is clad with asbestos shingles while the roof is topped with raised-seam metal.

The primary or south elevation is pierced on the first floor by a central door flanked by a window on either side. Due to the dilapidated state of the house all of the openings have been boarded over precluding observations about the sash type. All of these bays are shaded by a porch supported by plain square posts. The attic story of the cottage is pierced by a gable dormer replete with two window openings that have been busted out.

No other elevations were investigated.

8. Significance

Inventory No. SM-810

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

In the aftermath of the Civil War, many African Americans in St. Mary's County fled to northern regions to escape the oppressive bonds of slavery, distance themselves from their former masters, and seek better paying jobs. Others remained behind. Tenant House #1 at Clark's Rest as well as SM-811 typify the types of dwellings that African Americans occupied in the early twentieth century. Interestingly, the circa 1920 house's location also typifies the proxemics of post-Civil War domestic hierarchies. Sitting at the bottom of the hill below the main dwelling, this and two other house's occupied the eastern margins of the impressive plantation called Clark's Rest. Oral history, documentary research, and photography should be completed for this as well as SM-811 in order to determine the exact relationship of these houses, the families that occupied them, and how they functioned in the larger scheme of the day-to-day operations of the main farm.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. SM-810

Hammett, Regina Combs. History of St. Mary's County, Maryland: 1634-1990. Ridge, Md: Self-published, 1994.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	<u>1 acre</u>	
Acreage of historical setting	<u>178 acres</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Leonardtown</u>	Quadrangle scale: <u>1:24 000</u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is bounded by a wooded tract to the west, agricultural parcels to the north, a residential lot to the east, and by the road to the south. A more specific description of the properties boundaries can be found in St. Mary's County Land Records Liber EWA 1153, Folio 327.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	St. Mary's County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	August, 2000
street & number	22740 Washington Street	telephone	301-475-4662
city or town	Leonardtown	state	Maryland

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600





SM-810

Tenant House #1 at Clark's Rest

St Mary's

K. A. P. 116

190

MC SHFO

Looking N

Left